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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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## Winter Wheat Crop Looks Good

Almost a billion bushel winter wheat crop growing, according to April 1 conditions. Forecast is for 973 million bushels, which would compare with 874 million grown last year and 654 million for the 10-year average 1936-45. (Spring wheat the last two years has added nearly 300 million bushels to total crop but planting is much delayed this Spring.)

## Wheat Stocks Small - Corn Large

Stocks of wheat on farms April 1 were very low, estimated 140 million bushels, compared with 198 million year previous and 186 million as the April 1 average 1936-45. Present stocks represent 12% of last year's crop compared with 18% of 1945 crop on farms year ago.

Stocks of corn on farms quite large, 1,295 million bushels, despite record use of corn since January 1. Present stocks second only to record high in 1943 (1,357 million bushels). 1936-45 average corn stocks 1,098 million bushels. (The world corn crop of 1946-47 is estimated at 5.4 billion bushels, of which the U. S. crop 3.3 billion made up 60%.)

Stocks of oats on farms 537 million bushels, compared with 571 million year ago; are 27% above the average of 422 million bushels.

Stocks of barley 67 million bushels--smallest since estimates began in 1940.

Stocks of soybeans on farms April 1 only 25 million bushels, nearly 5 million less than year ago and smallest since records began in 1943. About 17½ million bushels of soybeans will be required for seed this Spring, if March planting intentions are carried out.

## How the Wheat is Used

Recent estimates of utilization of the 1946 supplies of U. S. wheat indicate: 525 million bushels for food; 180 million for feed; 87 million for seed. Since total supply was 1,256 million bushels and exports will be around 350 million, carryover at end of June of some 100 to 125 million bushels is indicated. This would compare with 100 million bushels last July but would be considerably below the 235 million bushels average for 1932-41.

## Big Citrus Crop

1946 crop of oranges and tangerines indicated 120 million boxes, compared with 105 million in 1945 and 81.4 million average. Grapefruit for 1946 indicated 62.5 million boxes compared with 63.6 in 1945 and 40 million average. Lemons 14.7 million boxes compared with 14.5 million in 1945 and 11.5 average.

## Poultry Industry Contracting - Feed High

Hens laid 6.2 billion eggs in March, 9% under March last year though 17% above 1936-45 average. Egg production per hen 16.4 eggs, compared with 16.9 year ago and 15.1 average. Number laying hens in March 376 million--6% under year ago but 8% above average. Chicks and

young chickens of 1947 hatch estimated 209 million on April 1, which was 5% under year ago but 24% above 10-year average.

Average price of eggs received by farmers in mid-March 40.1 cents a dozen, highest for the month since 1920, compared with 32.1 cents year ago and 22.4 cents average. Average price of chickens received by farmers in mid-March, 26.6 cents a pound, live weight, compared with 23.3 cents last year and 17.9 cents average. Chicken prices also highest for any March since 1920.

Cost of feed for poultry ration was highest in 24 years of record, \$3.77 a hundred pounds, compared with \$3.07 year ago and average of \$2.10. Ration costs increased 34 cents during the month, mainly because of higher grain.

1946 gross income from chickens and eggs, including commercial broilers, totaled \$2.8 billion, 4% under record high of previous year. Of total income, 61% came from eggs, 29% from chickens and 10% from commercial broilers. Cash receipts from sales accounted for about \$2.4 billion or 84% of the gross income.

Total production of chickens on farms in 1946 was 647 million birds, 21% under 1945 and 29% under the record high in 1943. In addition, 274 million commercial broilers were raised, 21% under 1945. The income from these broilers was \$269,000,000, 13% under 1945.

## More Milk From Fewer Cows

Milk production during March estimated 9.9 billion pounds, 2% above March last year, almost same as record March 1945 and 9% above 1936-45 March average. Fewer cows now than year ago but production per cow a record. However, daily milk production per capita in March was 2.23 pounds, same as year ago and lower than for

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Feb. 15 1947	Mar. 15 1947	Mar. 15 <sup>1</sup> 1947
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.99	2.44	2.02
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.23	1.50	1.47
Peanuts, lb. . . . . ct.	9.06	9.91	11.0
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	30.56	31.89	28.40
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.31	1.39	1.70
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	23.80	26.40	16.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	17.30	18.50	12.40
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	19.20	20.20	15.50
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	19.40	20.00	13.50
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	67.8	73.5	61.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	4.48	4.34	3.60
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	25.3	26.6	26.1
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	38.6	40.1	41.8

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



any March in 1941-45 period. Milk production January-March 27.3 billion pounds compared with 26.5 billion in like period last year and 24.9 billion average.

#### 13% More Cattle on Feed This Spring

Number cattle on feed in 11 cornbelt States April 1, was about 200,000 head more than year ago, representing an increase of 13%. It was about 150,000 head fewer than two years ago. The percentage increase over last year in cattle on feed ranged from 5% in Indiana to 38% in Missouri; it was 6% in Ohio, 20% in Illinois, 15% in Iowa, 8% in Nebraska. Two States showed decreases in the number on feed: Kansas 4% and Michigan 20%. For the eastern cornbelt as a whole the increase amounted to 12% and for the western belt 13%.

#### Fats and Oils Still Scarce

Factory and warehouse stocks of edible vegetable oils February 1 totaled only 519 million pounds, 312 million under year previous. Supplies of drying oils for January-June are somewhat below last year despite purchase of 88 million pounds of Argentine linseed oil. Lard and soap fats supplies about like last year. Butter production is up.

Of world supplies of fats and oils, about 6 billion pounds will be available in 1947 for import into North America and Europe; this is roughly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  billion pounds more than in 1946. (But 14 billion pounds are needed to restore consumption per person to pre-war level.)

Total production of *oleomargarine* in 1946 was 572 million pounds, 7% under 1945 but 61% above 1937-41 average.

#### World Stocks of Wool Still Large

Stocks of wool in the world are large, despite heavy consumption. World stocks of wool as of June 13, 1946, were estimated (by the International Wool Study Group Meeting in London) at 5 billion pounds. These stocks were about equally divided between Governmental and commercial holdings. The estimate is that by mid-June of this year, world stocks will be about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  billion pounds, of which about 55% is expected to be held commercially. The estimate of total world production of wool in 1946-47 is 2,905 million pounds, with total consumption estimated at 3,395 million pounds.

#### More Farm Workers - Wages At New Peak

Number of farm workers on April 1 estimated 9,242,000 compared with 9,121,000 year ago and 12,052,000 back in the 1910-14 period. Number family workers 7,571,000 compared with 7,469,000 year ago and 9,160,000 before World War I. Number hired workers 1,671,000 compared with 1,652,000 year ago and 2,892,000 in 1910-14.

Farm wages continue to set new seasonal records. On April 1 the farm wage index was 389 (the 1910-14 average being taken as 100). The average wage per day, without board, for the U. S. was \$4.77, compared with \$4.36 year ago, \$1.44 as the April average 1935-39, and \$1.42 as the annual average 1910-14. The farm wage in different States varied from an average of \$2.90 a day in South Carolina to \$8.40 in Washington State.

#### Farm Receipts

Cash receipts by farmers for products sold during February, \$1,705,000,000 compared with \$1,455,000,000 year ago. These figures include Government payments of \$44,000,000 this February and \$72,000,000 year ago. Total cash receipts for January and February \$3,858,000,000 this year compared with \$3,103,000,000 last year. This includes \$80 million Government payments this year and

\$186 million year ago. Preliminary estimate covering January-April indicates total cash receipts of about \$7.5 billion compared with \$6.1 billion in like months last year, or a gain of 22%--due mostly to higher prices.

#### Food Deliveries By Government

February deliveries of agricultural commodities and food products by USDA to foreign government, UNRRA, and U. S. Government agencies totaled 2,277 million pounds. This compared with 2,058 million pounds in January. Deliveries to foreign governments totaled 773 million pounds--709 million pounds of grain and cereals, 29 million dairy products, 15 million white potatoes, 15 million canned fish, 4 million dried whole eggs. Deliveries to UNRRA were 727 million pounds; transfers to U. S. Government agencies 777 million pounds. February deliveries to UNRRA also included 5,379 horses and 805 mules.

#### Truck Crop Prospect

Potatoes for early spring harvest, in Florida and Texas Lower Valley, forecast at 2,988,000 bushels, based on April 1 condition. This would be about an average crop but would be 40% under last year. Commercial acreage for late spring harvest estimated 157,600 acres, compared with 200,700 acres year ago.

Early snap beans forecast 2,416,000 bushels, 19% over last spring; midspring beans 1,934,000 bushels, down 16%. Total 4,350,000 compares with 4,325,000 last spring.

Celery for spring harvest (Florida and California) estimated 3,440,000 crates, 16% below last spring but one-third above average.

Early spring onion crop of South Texas indicated 3,531,000 sacks (50 lb.), 29% under year ago, 8% under 1936-45 average, smallest crop since 1943 when it was 3,416,000 sacks.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Mar. 1947
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	280
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	229
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	122
Wholesale prices . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	216
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	1235
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	3383
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	2418
RATIOS	LONG-TIME Mar. - AVERAGE	Mar. 1947
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . .	13.1	17.6
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	24.6	24.3
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	1.26	1.28
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	10.6	10.6
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan - Mar. 1946	Jan-Mar 1947
Milk, (Btl. lb.) . . . . .	26.5	27.3
Eggs, (Btl.) . . . . .	16.1	15.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	1,536	1,976
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	257	179
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	2,562	2,316
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4,472	4,542
<sup>1</sup> Feb. figure. <sup>2</sup> Factory pay roll per employed worker. Dec. figure. <sup>3</sup> Jan. figure.		